

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11

COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01

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R 180810Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8805

INFO COMUSJAPAN

CINCPAC HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16289

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENERG, PFOR, JA

SUBJECT: FUEL PROCUREMENT IN JAPAN FOR US FORCES

REF: TOKYO 15885

1. FORMIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRGEN OKAWARA REITERATED GOJ INTEREST IN USG CONSIDERATION OF FUEL PROCUREMENT IN JAPAN FOR US ARMED FORCES DURING CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE DECEMBER 15. OKAWARA EMPHASIZED THAT DURING LOWER HOUSE DIET SESSIONS WEEK OF DECEMBER 10, FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA HAD BEEN PRESSED BY JCP DIET MEMBER FOR EXPLANATION OF GOJ POSITION ON THIS QUESTION. JCP MEMBER TOOK POSITION THAT GOJ SHOULD TAKE ACTION TO TERMINATE SUCH PROCUREMENT IN LIGHT OF GROWING CIVILIAN FUEL SHORTAGE. IN REPLY, OHIRA STATED THAT THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF USG WHICH IS NOW QTE SERIOUSLY STUDYING IT UNQTE. OHIRA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT QUESTION CAN BE RESOLVED THROUGH DISCUSSION WITH USG. OKAWARA TOLD CHARGE THAT HE EXPECTED OPPOSITION DIET MEMBERS WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS THIS ISSUE IN UPPER HOUSE DEBATE DURING WEEK OF DECEMBER 17 ON GOVERNMENT'S ENERGY
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CONSERVATION BILLS, AND HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOJ

COULD RECEIVE BY THAT TIME SOME INDICATION OF USG
VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT USG AWARE
OF GOJ INTEREST BUT POINTED OUT THAT QUESTION INVOLVES
CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF ESSENTIAL OPERATIONAL REQUIRE-
MENTS AND POSSIBLE SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

2. OKAWARA ALSO RAISED THIS MATTER AT DECEMBER 17
MEETING OF SECURITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP, AGAIN
EMPHASIZING PRESSURE BEING PLACED ON GOVERNMENT BY
OPPOSITION LINE OF QUESTIONING. US SIDE AVOIDED
BEING DRAWN INTO DETAILS, BUT AGREED THAT OKAWARA
COULD STATE TO PRESS, FOLLOWING MEETING, THAT MATTER
RAISED AND THAT US SIDE HAD SAID MATTER NOW UNDER
STUDY IN WASHINGTON. (IN REPORTING THIS STATEMENT,
NIHON KEIZAI DECEMBER 18 ADDED COMMENT THAT QTE US
SIDE SEEMS TO HAVE CLARIFIED POLICY OF REDUCING
AMOUNT OF PROCUREMENT WITHIN JAPAN, IN PROCESS OF
RESTDYING AMOUNT OF OIL PROCUREMENT BY US FORCES AS A
WHOLE UNQTE.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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